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MAY 1, 2022 | VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 9

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Mission-threatening conditions  
impel Delonis workers to unionize.  
**Page 4**



MEET YOUR  
VENDOR:  
**PONY BUSH,**  
PAGE 3

# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



Staying Power/Staying Home  
presents: Spoke from the Soil. **Page 6**

THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM

venmo



@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #



from the **DIRECTOR's DESK**



Now that we are finally breaking through the long Michigan winter and the streets are livening up again, I’ve frequently been getting the ask from our vendors: “When’s the summer special edition coming out?” Maybe you’re curious too.

In addition to the regular biweekly issues, Groundcover News traditionally publishes one or two special editions each year focused around a particular theme, bringing together outstanding materials from our archives and new content not normally found in our \$2 paper. As much as Groundcover is a local

newspaper, we are a social justice publication that works to create social change. And in order to make change, we need to study the past and listen to those who have come before us — especially the voices who have been historically ignored. Our upcoming summer special edition is themed to local history to do just that.

The special edition is already in the works, but just like last year, we’re going to need lots of community involvement to really make the edition, well, special. If you have a story to tell or a history to uplift, please consider submitting to the issue, or extending this invitation to someone who does. It is an effort to connect history to place and past to present — whatever that means to you. Please reach out if you are interested in contributing but would like a specific assignment.

The deadline is May 12th. Email submissions to [submissions@groundcovernews.com](mailto:submissions@groundcovernews.com). And get excited for the June 10th release!

**GROUNDCOVER NEWS**

CREATING **OPPORTUNITY** AND A **VOICE** FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WHILE TAKING ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY.

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each copy of our regular editions of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. Our paper is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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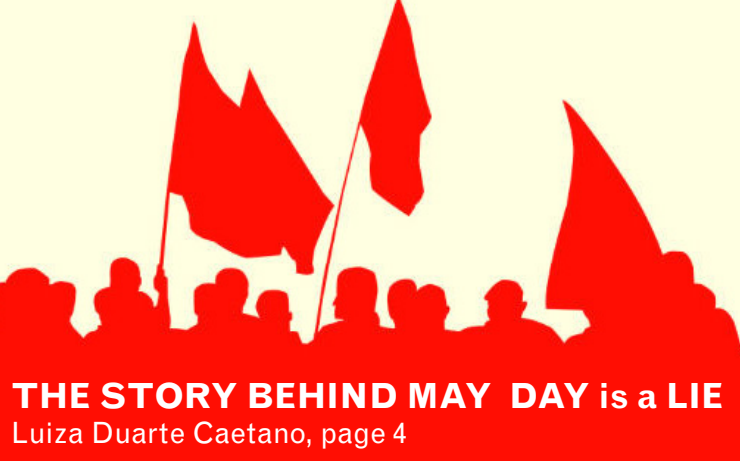
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1/4	\$200.00	\$265.00	5 X 6.25	Only run for two weeks/one issue: <b>40%</b> off
1/2	\$375.00	\$500.00	5 X 13 or 10.25 X 6.5	Additional <b>20%</b> discount for money saving coupons
full page	\$650.00	\$900.00	10.25 X 13	

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MEET YOUR VENDOR



- Pony Bush, vendor No. 305**
- In one sentence, who are you?**  
Pony, the one and only.
- Where do you usually sell Groundcover News?**  
In front of the Running Fit.
- What movie have you seen recently would you recommend?**  
Training Day, Scarface.
- When you die, what do you want to be remembered for?**  
Groundcover News.

**If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be?**  
Florida or New York.

**If you could choose any two famous people to have dinner with, who would they be?**  
Jennifer Lopez and Beyonce.

**If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be?**  
Rapping.

**If you had to teach a class on one thing, what would you teach?**  
How to sell Groundcover News.

**If you could give a piece of advice to your younger self, what would it be?**  
Don't give up, have faith.

**Tell us about an experience or person that/who changed your life in some way.**  
Kung Fu Panda brought me in to start with Groundcover.

**What was your happiest memory from this year?**  
Working at the farm, We the People Opportunity Farm.

Which war are you in?

I was born in 1942 during the Battle of Stalingrad which killed some two million people including many thousands of civilians, before the Wehrmacht of the Third Reich surrendered to the Red Army. The American people had been praying for a Russian victory. It was another three years before the Russians took Berlin. The Russians paid in blood, the Americans paid in productivity. Detroit was "The Arsenal of Democracy!" Every Russian family has experienced death from World War II and their memory is alive.

I worked in West Germany from 1965-67 with veterans of the German resistance to fascism. Fascism, the most brutal form of capitalism. My German supervisors and mentors were brave, intelligent and compassionate. Martin Niemoller is still widely quoted, "First they came for the mentally ill and I did not say anything, then communists, trade unionists, Jews and I did not say anything but they still came for me."

Horst Symanowski, my other mentor, founded the West German branch of Gossner Mission in Mainz Kastel near the confluence of the



- KEN PARKS**  
Groundcover vendor No. 490
- Main River into the Rhine River.
- During the Cold War there were two Germanies, commonly called East and West Germany. Berlin was deep in East Germany but there was also a West Berlin. The famous Berlin Wall separated them.
- My assigned volunteer service project, the Gossner Mission in Mainz Kastel, was run by Christians who taught me how imperialism was alive and well (Vietnam was exploding then), that it would resort to fascism when threatened, and that communists were the best allies against fascism. Pretty heady stuff for a preacher's kid from the Midwest.
- My undergraduate studies had prepared me to dig in deep to the real

see **WAR** page 7 ➡

Undercover art intel: from the desk of Panda

Art has always been a part of my life, from the age of five when I asked my mom to draw a horse. This she could not do, so out of frustration I went ahead and drew it myself with determination. "No mom, *this* is a horse," I declared!

From this day on art came very simple to me. Now I see art as a very powerful way to communicate one's feelings and ideas for real change!

I've had the wonderful privilege to show my works in the Delonis Center for two years in the lobby. The theme



- CINDY GERE**  
Groundcover vendor No. 279
- is getting out of homelessness. My other works are in the Briarwood

deal. Among the German elites, Lieutenant General Reinhard Gehlen, Hitler's head of intelligence on the Eastern Front, knew in 1942 that Hitler was a loser, and began preparing for the Cold War. He buried barrels of paperwork describing the large number of locals who collaborated with the Nazi German occupation in order to erase them. The ruling power always finds those who will work for them. Even France could not fully face the large number of collaborators with the German occupation. If you watch "Casablanca" you will experience an unforgettable movie with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Resistance or collaboration, that is the question.

So at the end of WWII, von Gehlen went underground and surrendered to the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. He announced at each level of interrogation, "We know who the real enemy is." The open aim of the United States and Great Britain in particular, beginning in 1917, was to overthrow the Bolshevik Revolution.



Left: "Unity," oil paint on canvas, Right: Untitled, oil pastel on paper. Works by Cindy Gere.



# Mission-threatening conditions impel Delonis employees to unionize

On April 5, 2022, a collective body of the majority of Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC) workers petitioned the nonprofit's board of directors for voluntary recognition of the bargaining status of the newly formed union Delonis Workers United. This voluntary recognition was denied on April 8, summarized in a posted notice within the Delonis Center signed by both Executive Director Dan Kelly and Board President Martin Delonis. The workers will vote in early May as to whether the union will be formally recognized as their bargaining agent.

The Robert J. Delonis Center on Huron St. serves as a low-barrier emergency shelter for unhoused members of our community in accordance with the SAWC mission of "ending homelessness one person at a time." According to the SAWC 2020 annual report, the clientele includes 25 people recently discharged from the hospital who enter the newly started recuperative care program for a safe place to heal, as well as over 600 people who stay temporarily in the Warming Center during the coldest nights of the year.

In addition to providing emergency



**BEN GIRODIAS**  
Groundcover contributor

shelter, SAWC was founded to provide vital services to the unhoused population in our community. SAWC's dedicated case managers work one on one with clients, helping them navigate the myriad of complex government assistance programs, ultimately getting many individuals from the streets into a permanent home. In 2020 alone, SAWC found permanent housing for 301 individuals. The caring Operations Specialists patrol the floors of the center and other offsite locations, carrying out the day to day operations: de-escalating conflicts, enforcing SAWC policies, directing clients to services, intervening in crises, listening compassionately,

and most importantly, offering hope.

But it is not an easy job. I can personally attest to this, after serving for only a short while as an Operations Specialist at one of the offsite locations during the winter of 2020-2021. On shift, you can see almost anything: long poems about farms, not so subtly-hid crack pipes, vomit, microwaved hotdogs shared among the whole hall, panic attacks, small deeds from local community members, literal shit, smoke billowing out from a burning room, comedy gold that I still chuckle over, shrill screaming, gorgeous paintings of jazz bands, smiling young children with devoted moms and dads making the best of a desperate situation, unleashed tempers, ugly prejudice of various kinds, heartwarming friendship, renewed hope, haunting loneliness, and even death. And this is just working there; I am certain the clients living in the shelter see far more.

The dedicated staff enter these chaotic whirlwinds every day — even in the midst of a pandemic. This fierce devotion of frontline workers, showing up every day despite the emotional toll, can only be explained by a deep sense

of caring for those in need. (Trust me it's not the pay.) And they do amazing work.

But this is all despite the persistent systemic problems within the agency that executive management has failed to address. As current Case Manager Leigh\* said, "What I am is someone who is very passionate and cares about the success of Delonis in the community, and what I want is what is best for the clients. At the fundamental core, that is having staff that feel safe (physically and mentally), are equipped to do their jobs and are able to help the clients. If you don't have those things, you have what SAWC is currently facing."

For many years now, including years prior to the COVID pandemic, SAWC has been plagued by astronomical staff turnover, chronically understaffed shifts, insufficient onboarding, inadequate training, faulty equipment, missing supplies and staff burnout. As former Case Manager Helayna said about her experience shortly before quitting, "I operated in survival mode."

A strained employee just trying to

see **DELONIS** page 10 ➡

## The story behind May Day is a lie

**LUIZA DUARTE CAETANO**  
Groundcover contributor

Yes, this title is a bit inflammatory, but hear me out. When I started reading about International Workers Day, aka May Day, for this issue of Groundcover, all I knew was that Americans celebrate Labor Day in September, even if the rest of the world does it on May 1. I was then surprised to find out that May 1 was initially proposed by Americans themselves, to memorialize an episode in their history.

May Day commemorates a deadly confrontation between the police and civilians during a protest for the eight-hour workday at the Haymarket Square in Chicago, in 1886. It was by accident, trying to figure out the reason for the discrepancy in dates — which apparently was because of anti-communist sentiment in the 1960s — that I learned something much more interesting: the story of the Haymarket affair, as most people know it, is false.

The textbook version is this: on May 3, 1886, at the end of a peaceful demonstration in front of a factory plant, a confrontation between strikers and

scabs was violently repressed by the police, who fired at the picket line. Two workers were killed and many injured. The next day, a protest against police violence was organized by a group of immigrant anarchists. It was a relatively quiet event until the police asked people to disperse at around 10 p.m. A stick of dynamite was then thrown into the crowd and, in the confusion that followed, six policemen and four civilians died, and dozens of others were wounded. After a highly publicized six-week trial, a group of eight anarchists was condemned to death by the jury, even though it could not be determined whether any of them had thrown the bomb. This unjust sentence was criticized later, and May 1 was adopted by socialists as May Day in memory of the Haymarket affair and its victims.

The official May Day story, then, is one of martyrdom and defeat. We remember the sacrifices made by those who came before us and honor them with our ongoing struggle. On its 100-year anniversary, Pete Seeger even threw a concert and released an album dedicated to this tragic moment in

labor history. In reality, however, this was no tragedy, at least not in the way that we've been told.

In 2001, historian Timothy Messer-Kruse studied the original transcript of the Haymarket trial. He found that there was forensic evidence that the anarchists had, as feared, planned and incited the entire thing. Not only had they manufactured the bomb that unleashed the conflict on May 4, but they had actually been behind even the first confrontation.

Using what was then a common anarchist strategy, they intentionally advanced demands that they knew bosses would never agree to. They did this to show how capital could never be reconciled with the workers' interests. They wanted to inflame the workers against power. This, as they saw it, was the only way of sparking the revolution that society urgently needed. They came to the protest on May 4 prepared to start an insurrection. During the trial, they didn't even deny their actions, but remained defiant.

Now, this might all sound shocking, and people from the left and right were outraged when Messer-Kruse

published his findings. Still, in a talk given at Michigan State (available online in the MSU Library catalog: <http://catalog.lib.msu.edu/record=b9097723~S39a>) he urged looking beyond the question of whether what the anarchists did was right or wrong. And instead ask: why was the truth hidden for so many years? Who benefitted from withholding it?

My theory is this: the authorized version of May Day makes it a celebration of mourning. Whether it is the police, the anarchists or the innocent workers, its heroes are the helpless, those who were made victims, and whose suffering we redeem with our own. But to face the true story of the Haymarket anarchists, we have to admit that they were fervent visionaries, not victims. This means that we can't just mourn them, but have to come to terms with the very difficult questions that they sought to make visible.

They knew what they wanted, what their goal was, the risks and costs entailed, and they chose to pursue it nonetheless. Whether we agree or

see **MAY DAY** next page ➡

➡ **MAY DAY** from last page

disagree with their tactics, we must acknowledge that they had guts. They dared to wish for changes that seemed unthinkable and were proud to suffer the consequences for this.

At a moment when the unprecedented success of union movements across the U.S. inaugurates a new era for labor, what can this piece of distorted history still do for us? How can we still celebrate Workers Day this May?

Earlier this year, Ann Arbor Starbucks employees wrote a letter to the

company saying: "... it is insulting that our hourly wage is equivalent to two standard drinks when we regularly make hundreds of drinks in an hour." Their frustration is so relatable that it is almost obvious. And yet, the demand that it expresses is so radical that no one can take it seriously without sounding naive. No one would, except extremists such as the Haymarket anarchists. For them, the means to achieve the fair distribution of the wealth produced at Starbucks might be utopian, but this is not a reason to silence the desire for it. It is only after such desires are

acknowledged that we can begin to imagine the ways for realizing them. Only then can we really freely choose between the cost of a revolution and the cost of maintaining the status quo.

Today, workers are achieving the unimaginable feat of unionizing even gigantic businesses like Amazon and Starbucks. Let us cheer labor's victory this May Day, reflecting on the history being made, and also remade in our time. And may the "threat of unionization" be fueled by the past's martyrs as well as by its fiercest fighters.

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**Learn more at [bit.ly/washtenawfgp](https://bit.ly/washtenawfgp) or contact Sandy Bowers at 734-544-3040 | [bowerssk@washtenaw.org](mailto:bowerssk@washtenaw.org)**



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- See what we've got at [aadl.org/streamingvideo](http://aadl.org/streamingvideo)

**FEATURE EVENT**

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Downtown Library**

Looking for a preschool? The annual Preschool Expo brings representatives from area preschools to one location on one date. Explore your options and find the best preschool for your child. [AADL.org/preschoolexpo](http://AADL.org/preschoolexpo)



# Spoke from the Soil: When love is a thing called home

I'm honored to shine our "Community Spotlight" on Staying Power/Staying Home, this powerhouse performance group. Through workshops, live performances, publications and a podcast, Staying Power addresses gentrification and preserves Black and Indigenous history, culture and art in Washtenaw County. Staying Home provides a virtual arts respite for teens constricted by economic, transportation or disability barriers.

It is so special to me because my love for writing, storytelling and poetry began when I was around three years old. I am also honored and humbled to be welcomed by this group. My creative fuel has been lit on fire by all that SP/SH means in these both great and perilous times.

First I want to give thanks to Anika Love. I met her some time ago. We shared our love for the writing arts. Around two months later, I invited Anika to the Groundcover News office where she met Lindsay Calka, the Director/Publisher, and a few of the members. Shortly after that she told me about an upcoming event that she was performing in. I saw it twice that day! The performance was staggering! Then Anika suggested that I should come and meet more of the Staying Power/Staying Home members. Anika describes herself as being a visual artist, activist, poet, researcher, student and writer. She is very soft-spoken. I did not have a clue of how multifarious she is. I see her doing whatever she puts her mind to.

Here are some of the things others in the Company shared with me:

"All this talent came together in one spot because we took time to look for it. This is how we spread love." ~ Staff member Shane "ShaRod" Collins

"My love for Staying Power is deep and personal, it's been great to be able to share this love with this group of people and anyone willing to listen." ~ Staff member Ashanti Kenyatta Campbell

"Staying Power. It's about love for real." ~Cast member Malik Henry

"Staying Power's 'Spoke From the Soil' isn't just a performance but also a call to action to speak your truth and to really vocalize how our community impacted our families and how it has affected our roots." ~Cast member Samuel Martin

"Staying Power is spoke from the soil, spoke from the streets we truly live on. Staying Power is forever. My hope is that anybody who sees Staying Power or hears our poetry feels our message in its entirety. We are real people living in Ypsilanti. All of our stories are real. May the visions and dreams of my community outlive us



**LA SHAWN COURTWRIGHT**  
Groundcover vendor No. 56

and bloom as close to your house as possible." ~Script support specialist Maria Theocharakis

"Staying Power inspires the artist in everyone, the poetry of every situation, through the ups and downs we got each other. 'Spoke From the Soil' celebrates the raw truth we all experience. We can express ourselves through the encouraging atmosphere built by engaging as a community. That means love, support and healing that comes unconditionally." ~Cast member Anika Love

"'Spoke From the Soil' is important because it tackles a lot of really relevant issues through characters and story in a beautiful, complex way. I'm really excited for people to see this." ~Cast member Aurora Love

"Staying Power is a powerhouse of poets, artists and dreamers. This org is very close to my heart and I could not ask for a better group of stars to spend all my time with." ~Staff member Ciatta Tucker

"Staying Power is a group of educated teens coming together to inform their community of love that could be shared between one another." ~Cast member Jason Williams

The remaining "Spoke from the Soil" cast members are Shamiyah Payne, Brittney Prescott, Monty Granderson, Kadiatou Kaba, Devin Ferguson and Myles McClain. They are coached by the dynamic rap sisters Sakinah and Zakiyyah Rahman (aka Ain't Afraid) and Staying Power Co-Coordinator Cozine Welch.

It is truly a privilege being a vehicle to spread the news about Staying Power/Staying Home and be present with such a powerful and pleasant group of individuals. They are dynamic and very well connected. Part of what they do is fight gentrification, which is a big part of the housing insecurity issues many are facing. They also fight against racial and social injustice. I urge you to learn more about their history and podcast by visiting <https://www.emich.edu/engage/community/collaborative-programs/staying-power.php>.

I was surprised at how approachable and pleasant Program Director Molly Raynor was when I first met her. Being such a busy person, I was grateful that she took time to speak with me about this article. It gave me a renewed sense of confidence.

I am both very jittery and excited when I meet great professional people doing great things. I usually talk too much. I managed to remain cool. I felt as if I was a part of the Staying Power family. Thank you Molly! It is very exalting to be in the company of SP and I'm not even an active part of this organization.

The Staying Power performances are always exuberant, entrancing and phenomenal as they are transcending norms - breathing life into what they embody. There are no boundaries to what they can do in my mind, and I'm sure you will agree. I encourage you to attend Staying Power's upcoming event, "Spoke From the Soil: When Love is a Thing Called Home" (A Multigenre Production by Ypsilanti Youth).

**Dates:** Saturday, May 14, 2022 @ 6 p.m. (doors at 5:30) and Sunday, May 15, 2022 @ 2 p.m. (doors at 1:30)

**Location:** Ypsilanti Community High School (2095 Packard St., Ypsilanti, MI)

**Accessibility:** The venue is wheelchair accessible - wheelchair accessible spots can be reserved.

**Covid Safety Protocols:** Masks will be required and seating will be spaced out.

**Ticket Cost:** \$5/youth (21 & under); \$15/adults (22 & up); \$50/VIP (all ages); free for Ypsilanti middle and high school students; discounts available for groups of 5+. If the cost is a barrier, we will work with you to make sure you can come. If you need a free or discounted ticket, email [stayingpowerypsi@gmail.com](mailto:stayingpowerypsi@gmail.com) by May 7 to let us know.

**Buy tickets here:** [emich.edu/engage/stayingpower](https://emich.edu/engage/stayingpower)

**Contact:** [stayingpowerypsi@gmail.com](mailto:stayingpowerypsi@gmail.com) or follow @staypowypsi on Instagram.

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## Dark Kristallnacht



**CHRISTOPHER ELLIS**  
Groundcover vendor No. 483

Crystal shouldn't be shattered,  
elegant slivers pierced into  
flesh, dark night of some soul.

Was it a soul, or civilization, or  
was it an evil ghost  
preaching the gospel,  
the other one ... the other glitter, other  
shine upon other soil, other wind and air.

Glass is clear, so is the statement, the voice that spoke  
those one hundred massacres that tore living souls  
out of cities and towns,  
that gaping wound, that  
chasm, that great divide...

"You are different."



Kristallnacht, called Night of Broken Glass or November Pogroms, occurred the night of November 9-10, 1938 when German Nazis attacked Jewish persons and property. Photo credit: Holocaust Encyclopedia.

## GROUNDCOVER COMMUNITY ARTICLE REVIEW

Join Groundcover vendors and contributors for an open discussion on our 2022 content thus far. We are excited to meet our readers and engage in conversation.

**SATURDAY, MAY 7TH, 2PM**  
**YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY - MICHIGAN AVE**

➤ **WAR** from page 3

As Churchill said, "We must strangle this baby in the crib." The Polar Bear Brigade, mostly from Michigan, was sent into the Russian civil war. They have a section at the White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, MI.

So Gehlen was making a safe bet on the Cold War. He was not prosecuted for war crimes. The Gehlen Organization, including numbers of other war criminals, was brought into the Cold War at the end of 1945 as the Cold War leapt forward. The networks of collaborators are still alive as the funding, training and support continues to this day. Ukraine is in this loop.

"The Spy Who Came In From The Cold," the book by John Le Carre and the movie starring Richard Burton, both show the deep drama of a British spy in East German intelligence. Who is the socialist? Who is the fascist in socialist disguise? Who is the spy?

I made one trip to Berlin with opening and closing scenes on Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin Wall between East and West Berlin. Special operations of every kind, especially to get "Western investors" embedded in every possible political economy. The World Economic Forum, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are specialists in creating debt slavery and austerity — the war that faces much of humanity.

Now the global, full spectrum of war is financially hidden in plain sight with your pensions and debt. War is information control, and truth is usually the first casualty. The intention to dominate your mind with this narrative is successful enough that endless

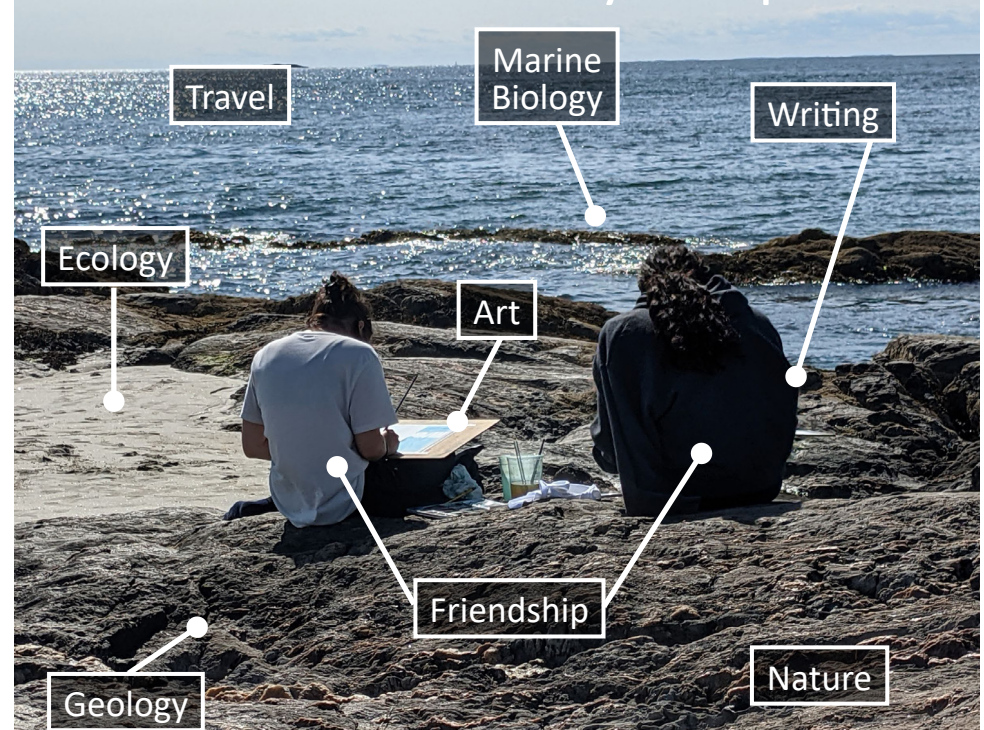
war has become normal. Yesterday Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East; today Russia; tomorrow China. Always Cuba. We are learning that sanctions are more deadly than bombs. I am among the 2.5 million Cuban Americans who cannot use the Western Union to send money to our families.

Babies are hungry. Old folks need medicine. We are in a war zone. There is no cure for othering except to face your own demons. You may think that reality is crystal clear; we are the good guys without a doubt, others are the enemy. It seems so easy, you get an adrenaline rush as you line up to fight evil. The virtue signaling is short-lived as the war always comes home and we face the class war inflicted by those who believe in their superiority and right to rule.

Now is the time for a natural breath. Can we see the consolidation of wealth and power as billionaires become trillionaires and millionaires panic at the thought of being left out?

So far every economic collapse or social crisis results in the 1% becoming fewer and fewer financial oligarchs — the real deciders about what appears before you in a social media display of compliance. Professing a disbelief in politics or religion becomes a mantra of ignorance because basic principles become taboo. Compliance keeps us in gridlock believing technology is the solution to our limited awareness. Technology becomes psycho warfare. Take a break or fall into despair, one of the worst war zones. It may be hard to give up feelings of superiority as they have helped us survive, we think. But they have not helped us thrive.

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# Celebrations after Senate confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown-Jackson

After a tough, grueling and disrespectful Senate confirmation hearing in the judiciary committee, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination was sent to the full Senate for a vote. On Friday, April 7, 2022, the Senate voted 53-47 to confirm Judge Jackson as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). There were hand-clapping and tearful standing ovations in the Senate Chamber. Kamala Harris, America's first woman vice president, first Black American Vice President and First Asian American Vice President, presided over the Senate vote that confirmed Judge Jackson.

Across the country, there were millions of Americans who celebrated the confirmation of Judge Jackson to SCOTUS. Family members and friends were calling and texting each other. There were some living room and kitchen impromptu parties among friends and families. The celebrations were multiracial and intergenerational.

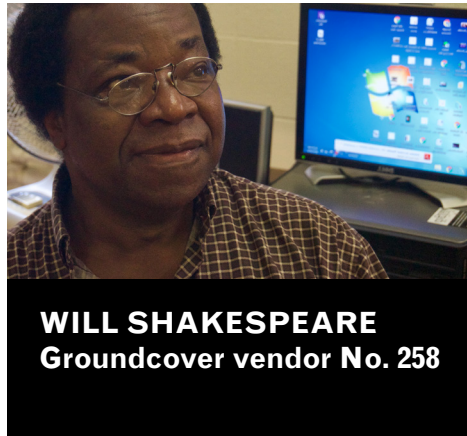
The mass media covered every aspect of the nomination and confirmation process as a topic of historical significance and public interest. The mass media also noted that on the day of confirmation, only 27% of Americans in recent polls opposed Judge Jackson's elevation to SCOTUS.

For Judge Jackson's fans and well-wishers across the country, the judge is "The Lovely One," which happens to be, in fact, the meaning of her first and middle names, "Ketanji" and "Onyika."

## History-Making Celebration at the White House for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

President Joe Biden and Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson watched the full Senate confirmation vote from the West Wing of the White House on Friday, April 7. The next day, there was a White House celebration of the historic confirmation at the Rose Garden section of the South Lawn. Families, staff, friends, and invited politicians were in attendance. After brief remarks by Vice President Harris and President Biden, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, the guest of honor, gave her post-confirmation remarks —

"Thank you. Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Thank you so much, Mr. President. It is the greatest honor of my life to be here with you at this moment, standing before my wonderful family, many of my close



**WILL SHAKESPEARE**  
Groundcover vendor No. 258

friends, your distinguished staff and guests, and the American people ... First, as always, I have to give thanks to God for delivering me as promised and for sustaining me throughout this nomination and confirmation process. As I said at the outset, I have come this far by faith, and I know that I am truly blessed. To the many people who have lifted me up in prayers since the nomination, thank you. I am very grateful. Thank you as well Mr. President for believing in me and for honoring me with this extraordinary chance to serve our country. Thank you also Madam Vice President for your wise counsel and steady guidance. And thank you to the First Lady and the Second Gentleman for the care and warmth that you have shown me and my family ... To my daughters, Talia and Leila, I bet you never thought you'd skip school by spending a day at the White House. This is all pretty exciting for me as well, but nothing has brought me greater joy than being your mother. I love you very much. Patrick, thank you for everything you have done for me over these past 25 years of marriage ... My clerkship with Justice Breyer in particular was an extraordinary gift and one for which I've only become more grateful with each passing year. Justice Breyer's commitment to an independent, impartial judiciary is unflagging. And for him, the role of the law is not merely a duty. It is his passion. I am daunted by the prospect of having to follow in his footsteps and I would count myself lucky indeed to be able to do so with even the smallest amount of his wisdom, grace, and joy ...

The notes that I've received from children are particularly cute and especially meaningful because more than anything, they speak directly to the hope and promise of America. It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. But we



**On Friday, April 7, the Senate voted 53-47 to confirm Judge Jackson as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. Photo credit: The New York Times.**

made it. We've made it, all of us, all of us. And our children are telling me that they see now, more than ever, that here in America, anything is possible ... They also tell me that I'm a role model which I take both as an opportunity and as a huge responsibility. I am feeling up to the task primarily because I know that I am not alone. I am standing on the shoulders of my own role models, generations of Americans who never had anything close to this kind of opportunity, but who got up every day and went to work believing in the promise of America, showing others through their determination and, yes, their perseverance that good—good things can be done in this great country — from my grandparents on both sides who had only a grade school education but instilled in my parents the importance of learning, to my parents who went to racially segregated schools growing up and were the first in their families to have the chance to go to college ... I am buoyed by the leadership of generations past who helped to light the way, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Justice Thurgood Marshall, and my personal heroine, Judge Constance Baker Motley. They and so many others did the heavy lifting that made this day possible. And for all the talk of this historic nomination and now confirmation, I think of them as the true path breakers. I am just the very lucky inheritor of the dream of liberty and justice for all. To be sure, I have worked hard to get to this point in my career, and I have now achieved something far beyond anything my grandparents could have possibly ever imagined. But no one does these on their own. The path was cleared for me so I might

rise to this occasion...

And in the poetic words of Dr. Maya Angelou, I do so now while 'Bringing the gifts my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave.' So as I take on this new role, I strongly believe that this is a moment in which all Americans can take great pride. We have come a long way toward perfecting this union. In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States. And it is an honor, the honor of a lifetime, for me to have this chance to join the court, to promote the rule of law at the highest level, and to do my part to carry our shared project of democracy and equal justice under law forward into the future. Thank you again Mr. President and members of the Senate, for this incredible honor."

## The Historical Significance of Judge Ketanji Jackson's Elevation to SCOTUS

There seems to be very little disagreement among historians when they talk about the monumental significance of the confirmation of Judge Jackson as the first Black woman Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Thurgood Marshall, who studied law at Howard University, became the first Black American nominated to serve on the Supreme Court in 1967. Clarence Thomas, who studied law at Yale University, was nominated to serve on SCOTUS in 1992. Both were Black males, and both won confirmation.

The first Black woman federal district judge was nominated in 1966.

see **SCOTUS** next page ➡

# Springtime perils of homelessness

When the ground thaws and sun peaks out of the cloudy sky during April, many people celebrate winter ending and spring starting. Those who are uneducated about homelessness also assume that anyone living on the street during the spring is not as vulnerable to the weather compared to winter. However, living on the street during any season is risky, health-wise. Although the spring weather is generally warmer during the day, the nights are still very cold and often below freezing.

Further, with the blooming of flowers in spring, comes the increase of allergies from pollen, seasonal asthma and Lyme disease. Anyone suffering from spring allergies can relate to the irritating symptoms of watery eyes, sneezing and a general itchiness all over the face. These symptoms are exacerbated through constant increased exposure to the outdoors and limited access to over-the-counter allergy medicine.

With the warmer weather comes the



**CAITLIN MORIARTY**  
U-M student contributor

closing of winter-only sheltering options. Many homeless people move outdoors. According to National Public Radio, some homeless people choose the streets because of the freedom and privacy they have. Yet, spring increases pollen production and with no shelter to block the exposure to nature, allergy sufferers cannot escape the torment this powdery substance brings.

The spring season also affects people suffering from asthma. Jai Medical Systems, a health insurance program in Maryland, reasons that diseases like

seasonal asthma are heightened due to the airways becoming inflamed or swollen from the pollen and dust in the atmosphere. The treatments range from using a rescue inhaler to staying inside when pollen count is high, neither of which is an easy thing to do when dealing with homelessness.

Tick season is most prominent during March to mid-May and August to November, as reported by the New York Department of Health. During 2019, a report from the CDC said that 34,945 cases of Lyme disease were seen around the country. A common way many people get Lyme disease is from ticks in heavily forested areas. Deer-ticks transmit bacteria by finding a host (aka a human body) and digging their head inside the host's skin. These bacteria cause Lyme disease; symptoms range from chills and fever to muscle pain. This can be treated by antibiotics from a prescription. The Mayo Clinic noted that people are more likely to get Lyme disease if they reside in grassy areas or heavily

wooded spaces. Since the warm weather already means more homeless people are living outside, their chances of getting bitten are increased. It is already difficult to get into clinics with long wait times so there is a lot of difficulty in receiving a prescription for the antibiotics needed to treat the disease, and there are a lot of challenges with getting a quick diagnosis unless the telltale "bullseye" bite mark is present.

The misconception that the springtime is an easy time to live as someone facing homelessness is false. This is not to take away from the immense struggle of being homeless in the winter, but to give attention to the springtime difficulty faced by some homeless individuals. The warm weather seems to offer a better environment for homeless people, but actually poses a greater risk for catching disease and increasing exposure to elements that can worsen health.

## ➡ SCOTUS from last page

Her name was Constance Baker Motley. She studied law at Columbia University, and her nomination was held up by Southern Senators who were still angry about her collaboration with Thurgood Marshall to win the school desegregation case of Linda Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. The original brief in the Brown v. Board of Education case was drafted by Judge Motley in 1952 and SCOTUS's decision was rendered in the middle of May, 1954. The Supreme Court overturned the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision, and declared that separate but equal was no longer the law of the land. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren said that the High Court was wrong in 1896. SCOTUS met again in 1955 to discuss the implementation of the Brown decision. They advised President Eisenhower's administration to "move with deliberate speed."

America of the 20th and 21st century is quite different from the America of the 18th and 19th centuries. In a U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Dred Scott case of 1857, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney said that Black American slaves and families were not considered citizens of the United States. Congress passed the 1866 Civil Rights Act which later became the 14th Amendment to the constitution. It was enshrined with the key provisions of due process rights, equal

protection guaranties, and all the immunities and privileges of citizenship accorded to former slaves. Because freed Black males were not allowed to vote, Congress passed the 1868 Civil Rights act which later became the 1870 Voting Rights Act and, also, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution. American women, White and Black, did not get the federal constitutional right to vote until the 19th Amendment to the constitution was ratified in August 1920.

## Conclusion

Finally, former President Obama said it best on November 4, 2008, on the night that he won the presidential election. First he said, "Change is coming to America." Second, he said his election as the first Black American President of the United States has answered the questions for doubters who may not accept the notion that everything is possible in America.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has echoed President Obama's sentiment about the greatness of the American people, along with the notion that in America, people can dream big, and for the younger folks, "there will be no limits to the infinite possibilities of your future."

Very few people know that Judge Amalya Lyle Kerse, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, was the first Black woman to be confirmed to the Federal Second Circuit

Court of Appeals in 1979, approximately 41 years before Judge Jackson got to the D.C. First Circuit Court of Appeals in 2021. Judge Kerse was on President Reagan's short list of women nominees to the Supreme Court in 1981, which led to the selection of Judge Sandra Day O'Connor.

Judge Jackson visited the University of Michigan Law School in January 2020, six weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic. She was invited to deliver an MLK lecture that honors Black women leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. She observed that those women share three characteristics — courage, purpose and authenticity. Judge Jackson noted, "They knew what freedom meant, and they knew it was being denied to Black Americans, even as this country purported to promote the core values of liberty and democracy."

As she has done on several occasions, she acknowledged Judge Constance Baker Motley as one of the courageous, purposeful and authentic Black women leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. Judge Motley was a guest speaker at the U-M Law School in the 1990s, during the deanship of notable Law and Public Policy Professor Jeffrey Lehman.

For a Black woman to be nominated and confirmed to the highest court in America is a big deal. The Supreme Court is a co-equal branch of the federal government. In any major dispute between the Executive

Branch (The White House) and the Legislative Branch (Congress), the Supreme Court has the appellate power of judicial review — a power that SCOTUS derived from the 1803 case of Marbury v. Madison.

In Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, students and local folks are still overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. We are eye-witnesses to history. Each year, April 7 and April 8 will be days that we remember America as a nation where the arc of the moral universe bent a little towards equal justice under law, in addition to the promise of greater freedom and liberty. We, as a nation, still have major challenges at the state-level judiciaries. Only 14 Black men and 17 Black women serve on the highest courts of state governments. In 22 States, there is no Black representation on the high courts.

We believe Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's message to young people is to aim high, dream big and work hard. You are worthy. Persevere and take advantage of the numerous resources and opportunities that are available to you. America is a great country. Get involved in your community. Learn civics and history! Love America! Shower the people that you love with love! Have an attitude of gratitude!!!



➡ **DELONIS** from page 4

make it through each day is not in the best interest of the clients; invariably, this burnout leads to lapses in judgment and understaffing that can put all at risk. “When you are the only staffer there, clients feel they must step into conflicts, placing themselves in danger,” said Helena. Intervention by a trained staffer versus a well-intentioned bystander can mean the difference between life and death.

As an example of the effects of understaffing, during the short interim that I worked for SAWC, on two separate occasions two different clients told me about how they had used the opioid-blocking drug Narcan on SAWC grounds to save another client from an opioid overdose — without the presence of any staff. Yes, they should be applauded for doing the right thing at a crucial time. But why was no trained staff present to assist? One of those clients only had Narcan because he happened to see a packet lying on the floor, and he just happened to pick it up. If he hadn’t ...

When I asked through email correspondence with Dan Kelly if the Board had any insight into why the workers felt unionization was necessary, a Board representative stated, “We are currently having open dialogue related to this matter.” However, in the notice rejecting voluntary recognition of the union, Dan Kelly and Martin Delonis wrote, “Under SAWC’s open door policy, you already have the right to bring issues to our attention without paying Union dues. For this reason, we do not believe a union is in your best interest.” (Bold and underline retained from original document). This message felt tone deaf to the issues raised by the organizing workers.

Leigh said she “would gladly pay union dues if it meant becoming a just-cause employee,” referencing the

current at-will status of the employment, where SAWC can fire any employee at any time without justification. One former Operations Specialist, Thomas, felt the brunt of this policy.

An outspoken employee about the workplace conditions, he was suddenly cut to part time over a technicality following a brief leave of absence to grieve for the loss of a friend, who happened to also be a client at the shelter. This friend passed away from an overdose in the first floor men’s bathroom at Delonis Center during an understaffed shift with an unusable AED defibrillator on that floor.

Within 24 hours of returning to work, Thomas found himself suddenly without health insurance and access to therapy to properly manage his grief. An early organizer, despite never being in a union before, Thomas saw the unionization effort as going much deeper than pay. “Not that we don’t deserve better pay, but from the perspective of the unionizing work, the only time discussions of pay were brought up were related to not burning out.” You can’t take time off when you really need it if you are living paycheck to paycheck.

Instead, Thomas saw unionization as a mechanism for holding upper management accountable to meaningful change to improve the workplace conditions for the betterment of both the workers and the clients. He said, “I thought a lot about how to explain to new employees the issues at Delonis and how to not trust the avenue already set up. There is such a history of nothing happening.”

Of those current and former employees I spoke with, all repeated this sentiment of the open door policy’s ineffectiveness in lasting change. It is one thing to bring up issues to upper management. It is another for them to do something about the major structural issues.

That is not to say I don’t have admiration for management. One to one, I have had great advice from managers on call, including Dan Kelly, when I was on shift and did not know how to handle a situation that came up. At other times, they came to the location to resolve something that I wasn’t equipped to do. It is great to know there is someone that has your back.

But that is for in-the-moment situations. Maybe that is what makes it all the more disappointing when the same management isn’t responsive to the persistent workplace failings. Many staff also fear for their job security if they were to speak up, seeing what happened to Thomas. In this way, much of the staff view unionization as the only mechanism for accountability when all other mechanisms have failed. Already, the petition for voluntary recognition has led to an April 20th meeting between the staff and Martin Delonis, who before then had never been seen in the building by most of the staff, showing the power of the union as a vehicle for change.

So why unionize now? SAWC workers didn’t petition for union recognition until long after the height of the COVID pandemic despite its unprecedented challenges and the associated risks endured by workers and their families. Maybe it was encouragement from other local unionizing efforts, such as the labor struggle by the Starbucks workers reported in the second February Groundcover issue, but this growing labor movement is only a catalyst. The truth of the matter is the SAWC workers have had it. “We tried so many times. We gave SAWC management the opportunity to show us that change was possible without a union. They showed us only what we were already aware of: that it was not possible,” Leigh said.

Most workers at SAWC saw the COVID pandemic used as an excuse for continued failings. For example, a

group of workers had met in January 2020, just before the pandemic broke out, with the Washtenaw Dispute Resolution Mediators to resolve the workplace concerns. Years later most of the same concerns persist: improper training, chronic understaffing, job insecurity and so on.

SAWC employees are the underpaid workers heroically tasked with solving some of the community’s biggest problems with the least resources. They have collectively endured workplace failings, put up with their concerns being dismissed, and, at times, risked both their physical and mental health, all to serve our most vulnerable unhoused community members.

All of this comes from a sense of deep compassion. Leigh called it “disgusting” to imply that the unionization effort had anything other than the best interest of the clients in mind. “We care deeply about these clients. That is why we come to work every day.”

Ultimately, the SAWC workers are unionizing, not in spite of, but because they care deeply about the SAWC mission to end homelessness one person at a time. They want to see SAWC become the kind of workplace that attracts and retains skilled social workers who can meet the clients’ needs efficiently each and every day.

For years they have given management the chance to follow through on their promises. It is only now, years and a pandemic later, that the workers have taken matters into their own hands and said enough is enough. As an organization, SAWC needs to make deep structural changes in order to execute its stated mission. And so, I implore the SAWC board of directors and fellow community members to listen to and support the collective voice of Delonis Workers United.

\*Names have been changed to protect sources from retaliation.

Sudoku

☆☆☆☆☆

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9	3						1	4
5		1	7		4	8		9
			2		1			
4	7	3				5	9	8
6	2	9				1	7	3
			9		5			
8		5	6		7	9		1
2	9						4	5

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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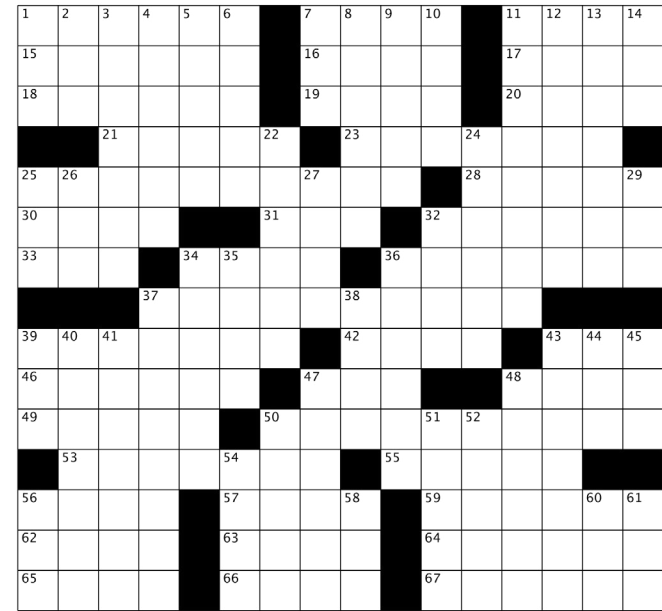
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- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in downtown areas. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.
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1. Losing lawyer's recourse
7. Understands
11. Gaping mouths
15. Detroit Thanksgiving Day event
16. Convention center show
17. Continent crossed by Marco Polo
18. Head-scratcher
19. Do a lawn chore
20. Request from the stumped
21. Pupil's location
23. Thinks logically
25. Lab workers
28. Spry
30. "\_\_\_ a Lady" (Tom Jones tune)
31. USO show audience
32. Places for benched players?
33. Inflation cause?
34. They're recited in confessions
36. Half of a "Which do you want first?" pair
37. Hit song released 50 years ago this month (May 1972)
39. Cafeteria headgear
42. Height: prefix
43. Wittily amusing
46. Spanish force of old
47. 2019 Best New Artist Grammy winner \_\_\_ Lipa
48. Babysitter's handful
49. Shinbone
50. End an engagement, in a way
53. Tourist activity on the decline?
55. J. Alfred Prufrock creator
56. Sounds heard at a showing of "The Notebook," maybe
10. Pop
11. Cabinet wood
12. Ridiculous
13. With 40-Down, city name-checked in 37-Across
14. Remained idle
22. Official seal
24. Spoke authoritatively
25. Federal retirement org.
26. The Cubs, on scoreboards
27. Absolutely, in Acapulco
29. 20% of seven?
32. Jack of early late-night TV
34. Summer footwear
35. Put-it-together furniture chain
36. Morphed into
37. Wandered aimlessly
38. Stretched
39. Bowler, for one
40. See 13-Down
41. One who runs up a bar tab
43. Do an essay about
44. Issa of "Awkward Black Girl"
45. Pay stub abbreviation
47. More intense
48. Jackson who co-wrote (and also recorded) 37-Across
50. Garden decoration
51. Top-notch
52. Stair part
54. Turkey's neighbor
56. Wild blue yonder
58. Terminate
60. Circumference part
61. Cheerleader's yell



Peter A. Collins

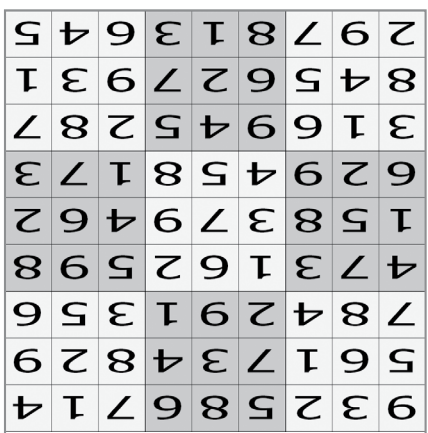
DOWN

1. Zoo attraction
2. Its home is on the range?
3. More steep
4. Group who recorded 37-Across, with "the"
5. Don Draper, for one
6. Not in the \_\_\_
7. Work on a hem, say
8. Applies
9. Olympics swords

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# Mississippi mud pie

**JUSTEN WHITE**

Groundcover vendor No. 543

## Ingredients:

1 large box of instant chocolate or vanilla pudding, and needed ingredients to prepare according to box directions  
1 package of regular Oreo cookies, crushed  
1/2 cup of butter, melted  
16 oz Cool Whip  
8 oz cream cheese

## Directions:

Mix pudding per instructions and let set up in the refrigerator.

To make the crust, combine cookie crumbs and melted butter. Press into the bottom of a 9x13 cake pan. Set in the fridge for a few minutes to help harden.

Combine Cool Whip and cream cheese together until smooth.



Reserve half and spread the rest over the crust. Spread the entire pudding mixture over the Cool Whip and cream cheese. Top with the remaining half of Cool Whip mixture.

Decorate with chocolate shavings or nuts.

# May horoscope



**IAN DEWEY**  
Groundcover contributor

**Leo:** Your confidence in the future will cause a lack of foresight for change. Still, this abundance of confidence will make you better equipped to deal with any setbacks that may occur; you will come out the other end stronger than before.

**Virgo:** What seems like a multiplicity of options is actually a single direction. Seeing powers are limited during this month. Seek mentorship and camaraderie for the best outcome.

**Libra:** Rapidly, things are starting to make sense, in a hazy way. The time in which the fruits of your labors have come to bloom has ended. Now is a time of rest. Don't worry if nothing has happened — in the next cycle you will see tremendous gains ... if you work for them.

**Scorpio:** A conglomeration of attempts is now coming to coalesce in a more concrete vision for the future, for better or worse. Psychic powers are heightened now if possessed in the first place.

**Sagittarius:** Spirits have descended upon you recently. It is almost as if you were in a dream — this dream, however, can come to form massive returns in the future. Power in career, family, or self will occur. Choose wisely.

**Capricorn:** Your energy is starting to increase. Remember to blow off steam, or else it may overwhelm you. Stay physically active at this time.

**Aquarius:** Beware the face of the despot, for he is cunning at this time. Live religiously during this month, and devote yourself to a certain train of thought. The results of it might surprise you.

**Pisces:** The crux of an issue keeps evading you. At this juncture, it is possible to either face the problem head-on, or to keep a distance from it. Be warned, however, that the latter option may cause a whole other host of problems in the future.

It is currently May, a time of rebirth and rejuvenation of the Earth. Bask in the glory of spring, for we only have a few moments until heat waves and leaves on the trees. Keep in mind that the full moon this month comes to fruition on the 16th, so any of these readings will have the utmost effect at that time. Understand that I'm articulating knowledge that is outside the realm of mortal comprehension, and that the spirits guide me through this exercise.

**Aries:** The line of flight has been blocked. You are trying to escape a deadly fate, but it's attempting to drag you back in — don't let it. Instead, seek alternative measures and methods.

**Taurus:** This is a moment of impasse, where two (or more!) roads branch off of the main thoroughfare. Take heed here, and exercise caution — but only in small doses. An overdose of prudence may cause indecision.

**Gemini:** The Earth quakes around you. Ensure that malicious actors don't affect you; people who seemed to be allies will become foes, and foes will become friends. This is a transitory period, but also a period of great power.

**Cancer:** A weakness in your personality that you have been unaware of up to this point will cause trouble for you; look at this period, however, not as a time of setbacks, but instead as a time of rebirth — you now have the opportunity to change for the better.



## St. Francis of Assisi Parish

"If God were your Father, you would love me,  
for I came from God and am here;  
I did not come on my own, but he sent me."  
+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

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